

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06586 050942Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W

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P 050827Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5562

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6586

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS KS

SUBJ: ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ADOPT 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, THOUGH DECISION WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL FALL. MOFA SAYS PRESIDENT PAK HAS NOT YET DECIDED DETAILS OF BOUNDARIES AND REGULATIONS OF NAVIGATION. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBE ISSUES PRESIDENT IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING, AND ALSO SEEM TO INDICATE ROKG INTENDS TO PROCEED PRUDENTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL SEOUL PRESS AUGUST 3 AND 4 FRONTPAGED REPORTS ROKG DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE AUGUST 3 TO ADOPT 12-MILE CONFIDENTIAL

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TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT. SEA LAW COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MINISTERS AND CHAIRED BY PRIMIN CH'OE KYU-HA WHICH REPORTEDLY MADE DECISION CITED SIMILAR ACTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS AND RECENT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE AS INDICATING 12-MILE WATERS IS BECOMING INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI WILL MAKE DETAILED PROCLAMATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. REPORTING BY ALL PAPERS EXCEPT ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA HERALD WENT WELL BEYOND ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF MINISTERIAL MEETING, SUPPLYING MYRIAD DETAILS SOURCED TO "GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS" OF ANTICIPATED ROKG ACTIONS. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, 12-MILE WATERS PROCLAMATION WILL NOT MENTION EITHER TOKTO (TAKESHIMA) OR THE NORTHWEST ISLANDS, TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF FRICTION WITH JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA RESPECTIVELY. PRESS ALSO REPORTED ROKG WILL CONSULT WITH GOJ CONCERNING IMPLICATIONS OF 12-MILE WATERS FOR ROK-JAPAN FISHING AGREEMENT.

3. PRESS FURTHER REPORTED CHEJU STRAIT WILL BE INCLUDED IN KOREA'S TERRITORIAL SEA, WHILE KOREA STRAIT NORTH OF TSHSHIMA ISLAND WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL STRAIT. TERRITORIAL SEA ON WESTERN AND SOUTHERN SIDES OF PENINSULA, WHERE ISLANDS COMPLICATE SITUATION, WILL BE BOUNDED BY STRAIGHT LINES (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED); EAST SIDE BOUNDARY WILL PARALLEL CURVE OF COASTLINE.

4. MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU CHIEF CHONG U-YONG, WHO HEADS 12-MILE WATERS WORKING GROUP, TOLD POLCOUNS AUGUST 3 THAT ROKG WILL PREPARE DRAFT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR PRESENTATION TO AUTUMN SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. CHONG ALSO STATED ROKG WILL NOT PROCLAIM 200 MILE

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FISHING ZONE AT THIS TIME.

5. MOFA TREATIES DIVISION OFFICIAL O YUN-KYONG TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 4 THAT PRESIDENT PAK IS PRESENTLY DECIDING SPECIFICS OF ROKG PROCLAMATION AND THAT THEREFORE DETAILED ACCOUNTS IN KOREAN PRESS ARE PREMATURE. O PROMISED TREATIES BUREAU WILL DISCUSS BLUE HOUSE DECISIONS WITH US AS SOON AS THEY ARE MADE. ROKG HAS NOT YET CONTACTED EMBASSY OR UNC TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF 12-MILE WATERS PROCLAMATION.

6. IN LIGHT OF PRESENT BLUE HOUSE INVOLVEMENT IN DECISIONS, LOWER-LEVEL ROKG OFFICIALS' RELUCTANCE TO COMMENT ON DETAILED PRESS REPORTS IS NOT SURPRISING. WE ESTIMATE, HOWEVER, THAT PRESS HAS FAIRLY ACCURATELY DESCRIBED ISSUES MOFA WORKING LEVEL REFERRED TO BLUE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENTIAL DECISION.

7. PRESENT INDICATIONS THAT ROKG PROCLAMATION WILL TACITLY MAINTAIN NORTHWEST ISLANDS STATUS QUO ARE ENCOURAGING. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT WITH ROKG OFFICIALS, WE PLAN TO DRAW ON ESTABLISHED

POLICY, POINTING OUT THAT TERRITORIAL SEA DECLARATION
CANNOT AFFECT THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS UNDER THE
ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. DECISION NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH
200 MILE FISHING ZONE ACCORDS WITH PREVIOUS INDICATIONS
THAT ROKG FULLY APPRECIATES PROBLEMS THIS COULD CAUSE
WITH JAPAN AND OTHERS.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Subject: ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS SUMMARY: ROKG HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ADOPT 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, THOUGH DECISION WILL NOT BE IM
TAGS: PLOS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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